

ICES mission's report on the pre-parliamentary elections of Georgia 2012

(September 6th up to September 20th, 2012)

A mission from the International Expert Centre for Electoral Systems (ICES) which included experts from Israel, Hungary, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland arrived to Georgia on the 6th of September to monitor and research the electoral and political processes which took place in Georgia before the upholding Parliamentary elections on the 1st of October, 2012.

The mission was composed of the ICES members: Baruch Ben-Neria (Israel), former Ambassador of Israel in Georgia and Armenia; Anna Curdova (Czech Republic), former Vice-President of PACE and the member of the Czech Parliament; Andre Georges Erdos (Hungary), former Ambassador in UN; Laszlo Kemeny (Hungary), Professor of PoliticalS; Nikolai Meinert (Estonia-Finland), journalist; Arturas Mankevicius (Lithuania), journalist and editor; Emil Tevosov (Israel), journalist; Asher Ben-Arzi (Israel), a member of the Counter-Terrorism Institute and Security Consultancy.

The ICES is a non-governmental public non-profit organization, established in 2005 by a group of highly qualified experts in the areas of the law, political science, diplomacy and sociology from the United States, Europe and Israel registered by the Ministry of Justice of Israel (№ 580449056, 13.12.2005), and by Chamber of Commerce for Limburg (Netherlands, 19.05.2011 № 52735192). On July 23, 2007, ICES was also registered by the United Nations electoral Assistance Division and added to the list of international non-governmental organizations endorsing Declaration of Principles for international election observation and Code of Conduct for international election observers commemorated October 27, 2005 at the UN, NY.

ICES experts, among them active members of European Parliaments, EC Parliament, former ambassadors, professors and scientists from different universities and qualified journalists, have extensive experience in political monitoring and management of electoral preparations and processes on different levels in the countries of Eastern Europe and the new independent states. ICES experts also participate in international conferences conducted by the UN, the European Union and publish reports and researches on the processes of building democratic political institutions mainly in the countries mentioned above.

Last years the experts of the ICES were present as official international observes on Presidential and Parliament elections in Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Russian Federation, Ukraine (2004), Georgia (2008), Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Kazakhstan (2005, 2006), Uzbekistan (2005, 2006) and Armenia (2012).

The ICES started preparation for the Parliamentary elections in Georgia in October, 2012 with the sending on July 8th, 2012 a letter to the Chairman of the Central Election Committee of Georgia, Mr. Zurab Kharatishvili with the request to receive information on the following questions:

1. Is it necessary to receive a special Georgian Authorities' approval to launch monitoring activities of the ICES organization before the elections?
2. When will it be possible to get the accreditation of CEC for our NGO as an international mission and what documents are needed to exhibit after the New Georgian Election Code amendments were introduced?

Between the 8th of July and the 15th of August 2012 there was no response from CEC of Georgia. Moreover, only after several telephone calls to the office of CEC of Georgia and a telephone conversation with Mrs. Ekaterine Azarashvili, who is the Head of International Relations Division / Speaker of CEC of Georgia, there was a confirmation from her side that she received the ICES's e-mail from the 8th of July, 2012 with the ICES request to obtain information. During more than one month the representative of ICES tried to get the CEC telephones and speak with Ms. Ekaterine Azarashvili. Moreover, the telephone numbers which are displayed on the official website were not correct and some of the digits were missing. The conversation with the representative of CEC of Georgia, Ms. Ekaterine Azarashvili was very unpleasant; she refused to reply why the CEC didn't react on the above-mentioned letter from the 8th of July, 2012. Her explanation was that it wasn't her duty because the President of Georgia announced the date of the elections on the 1st of August and since then it was possible to start the registration procedures and she didn't feel obliged to respond to the letters that had arrived before that date.

There is a strong feeling that if the ICES representatives wouldn't call her office trying to get her for several times even now after two weeks of the announcement of the President, the ICES wouldn't receive the CEC response. For the question if it is possible to come and start the activities in Georgia, Ms. Ekaterine answered that there is no problem to come to Georgia whenever the ICES plans to, but to start the activities of observing the elections, the accreditation of the CEC is requested.

On the 29th of August, 2012, having submitted the letter of the request to register the ICES for accreditation for the upcoming parliamentary elections for the October, 2012, the ICES started the procedures of accreditation of the ICES in Georgia. With this submission of the constituent documents of the ICES and according to the Election Code of Georgia, the letter of the financial sources and organizations with whom the ICES is cooperating was added. On the 31st of August, 2012, a letter from the CEC of Georgia, signed by the Chairman of the CEC, Mr. Zurab Kharatishvili and by the Secretary of the CEC, Mr. Gizo Mchedlidze was received. Unfortunately, the request of the ICES to receive the accreditation for the observing of the Parliamentary Elections was refused. The explanation which was brought in this letter of rejection was unclear and especially concerning the subject of the financial sources of ICES and the issue of the membership of ICES in the International Human Rights

Organization and the task of the ICES activities as a monitoring and observation organization. Secondly, the refusal was based also on the Article 39. Paragraph 156 and Article 40, paragraph 4 and 5 that ICES violated the Georgian Election laws and that the ICES financial sources are not transparent and introduced in a correct form. In that letter, the CEC informed the ICES that the latter has a possibility to appeal to Tbilisi Court, located on Aghmashenebeli Str. № 12, in two days after the receipt of the decision of the CEC. The letter of the CEC arrived on Friday 31st, August, 2012, at 16:00 pm in Israel and it was obvious that this was made on a deliberate basis to make the obstacle to appeal to the court as the President of ICES, Dr. A. Tsinker is not residing in Tbilisi, Georgia even if he would like to do so; The next opening of the Court was going to take place on the next Monday after the weekend. The letter was in Georgian language, which creates a new obstacle because no-one of ICES members is proficient in reading Georgian language and it was necessary to hire a special translator to translate the letter of the CEC. There was another obstacle that informed the ICES mission that the whole documents to be submitted for CEC should be in Georgian language that the head of the ICES couldn't have predicted. The President of ICES, Dr. Tsinker sent to the Chairman and the Secretary of the CEC a letter from the 2nd of September, where he expressed his astonishment for the rejection of the ICES to receive the accreditation for the election 2012 and requested to elaborate and clarify on what basis was this rejection built. There was no reply on that letter from the CEC and because of the desire to clarify and receive more detailed and transparent explanation from the CEC of Georgia and for the purpose of monitoring and, at least, attending the election preparations in Georgia it was decided to send a small team of members of the ICES to Georgia to enquire and to deliver a report about the political and electoral processes in Georgia before the elections and to report it and publish on the ICES web-site and international media.

For more understanding and clarification of the rejection letter of the CEC, the Head of the ICES mission when arrived in Tbilisi, Georgia, had consultations with a lawyer in order to understand the reasons for rejection and discussed the possibilities to make the CEC of Georgia to reconsider its refusal. After some consultations it was still questionable what the CEC meant by the request to submit the documentations of the financial sources supporting the ICES (was it about location of the bank, deposits, or bank accounts of the organization or some other institutions?). The form of the rejection letter was written to create the whole obstacles which could be assumed to prevent the ICES to be present at the election process in October, 2012. One of the main obstacles was a demand to be registered as a member of the International Human Rights of the organization which was never requested in any country or elections campaigns during the operational years of the ICES. In order to implement this request it would take at least one month to be accredited in order to participate in the election that is impossible.

The request of the CEC to present the financial sources of the ICES has put the organization in an unusual situation while the ICES had already informed the CEC of the sources in the letter concerning the organizations which cooperate and sponsor

ICES acting on a pure voluntary basis and own contribution and personal expenses. Moreover, the information about the mutual sponsoring cooperation could be found in the official web-site of ICES. The blames of the CEC that members of the ICES were violating the Election Code of Georgia seem unreasonable and groundless, not based on any facts or acceptable evaluations. It is easily felt that the refusal of the CEC of Georgia was originated and based not on the legitimate basis and not on the acceptable values. It seems to ICES that the decision was strongly influenced by the ICES critical report of the Presidential elections in Georgia, in January, 2008. The report was revealing many deficiencies which were made during the election processes in Georgia, in 2008. In addition, the ICES organization got a special indifferent treatment due to the former report of 2008.

For better understanding of the pre-election processes in Georgia the members of the mission met a great number of journalists, former officials of the Georgian government, citizens and members of parties but, unfortunately, no-one of the representative of the № 5 block of the President Saakashvili was ready to meet with any member of the mission. Among the meetings the members of the delegation met the Ambassador of the European Union, Mr. P. Dimitrov, who explained the situation in Georgia and how he sees the reasons of the rejection for the ICES organization. Second important meeting was with the Head of the NDI (National Democratic Institution), Mr. Louis Navarro, who in a very indifferent manner asked questions about the lawyer whom the members of the mission met, his name and address, and who are the members of ICES organization themselves and what is ICES and what kind of financial sources do they have and if the organization is sponsored by the candidate from №41 block, Mr. B. Ivanishvili. When all the questions were reputed by the members of the ICES who were present at the meeting Mr. Navarro slowed down his tone and his attitude.

In order to express the ICES mission's attitude and to introduce the ICES problem which ICES mission met in Georgia, the Head of the ICES mission contacted the Minister of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, G. Vashadze who asked the Head of the Protocol Department, Mr. Ucha Tsotsonava to deal with the appeal. The Head of the Protocol Department asked the Head of ICES mission in Georgia to submit briefly the issue which the ICES mission wanted to introduce to the Minister and this letter with the brief information and the list of the names of the members of the mission was sent to the Head of the Protocol Department by e-mail, on September 19th, 2012. Until the end of the 21st of September there was no reply to that e-mail.

In order to recommend some members of the ICES mission before the CEC and the Georgian public, some of the members of the mission have received the letters of recommendations of their national parliaments. Two of the letters were received from the Israeli KNESSET and one from the parliament of Estonia. The delegation of ICES ended its mission on the 20th of September, 2012 with the publishing of the following report, which summarizes the conclusions and the analysis of the Georgian pre-election society and politics.

The pre-election Legislative Process

There have been made a number of changes in the electoral legislation of Georgia since 2008, in particular, according to the recommendations of international organizations, including the ICES. New Electoral Code was adopted on December 27, 2011 and it determines the order of elections, referendum and plebiscite of the President, the Parliament of Georgia, Mayor of Tbilisi, and representatives of the local authorities.

From the theoretical point of view, since it has not practiced before, it could be said that it satisfies European standards. According to certain law paragraphs, which gradually began to take effect, it can be assumed that the new system will be more pluralistic and will bring more balanced representation in the Parliament. There are 44 changes in the Constitution of Georgia. The most important changes are related to the majority of the Presidential system and Parliamentary system, which will come into effect after the Presidential election in 2013.

On the operational side ICES has faced problems related to the registration of their organization and monitoring, as a result of the fact that the CEC refused to register the organization.

Only practice and the process of elections will show whether it satisfies the standards of the Code of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and other international organizations.

The pre-election campaign

During the campaign, each of the parties can use the facilities that are available to it, without neglecting the opportunity to go beyond the internationally accepted norms of political struggle.

The ruling party "United National Movement of Georgia" uses its existing state and legislative resources by any occasion, creating unequal conditions for competition. The leading opposition bloc "Georgian Dream", in turn, tends to use the means at its disposal financial potential. The most marked ones are:

1. Propaganda on the streets.

As mentioned, on the Tbilisi's example, that the majority of the billboards of the parties are registered on the electoral list at number 5. In addition, besides the aforementioned party there is a party with No.10, which is represented on the billboards only occasionally, and number 1 is represented only in a few cases. Moreover, observers didn't see any other parties on the billboards during a two-week stay in the city. Other parties are represented on posters which are presented singularly or in rows in different places. There were not any designated stands for the posters of all the parties on the same terms, as it's common in many European countries. The most effective advertising space, such as colored taxis were being used by the party No. 5, and in rare cases by the party with number 10.

2. Voting bribery.

Ruling parties as well as leading opposition made attempts to attract voters with financial reward in the case of victory in the elections. In the framework of the new government program, Georgian Prime Minister pledged to each family a sum of 1,000 GEL (approximately \$ 600) in the form of a voucher, valid for a period of four years (until 2016), which can be spent at the discretion of the recipient for any purpose, including the payment of the utility bills.

Earlier, similar promises to pay 10000 GEL were made by the representatives of the opposition party "Georgia's dream during the May meetings." The court also recognized as the attempts of bribes the free distribution of satellite plates by the opposition TV channel "Maestro" which were arrested. According to director of the TV channel "Maestro" Bacho Kikabidze the aforementioned antenna was planned not for free, and "on commercial terms" in order to extend the limited broadcast which did not reach the peripheral regions of the country. Actions of both sides in this situation are not presented as "undoubted" and can serve as an example of "bribery" and artificially restrict access to information in the interests of the ruling party.

3. Forms of fines.

Accordingly to the newly adopted law, violation of election laws impose fines amounting to millions of dollars, and in case of refusal or inability to pay the courts insist on the forfeiture of real estate and other personal property of the accused. 25 million dollars is known amount of one of these fines, levied on the opposition.

4. Intimidation and threats.

Opposition representatives reported about the case of intimidation of an academic researcher who wanted to become an observer in the election of the opposition side. There was a warning from the authorities at the place of the employee that in this case the planned dissertation will not take place, and it was proposed to abandon the aforementioned decision. Confirmation of such method was the meeting on September 17, when students began a strike in Tbilisi State University, demanded the return of redundant teachers for political reasons. Another example of intimidation and control, often referred to the opposition, was to create the structure of the pro-government "guards" with a permanent monthly salary of 100 to 750 GEL (50-350 EUR) in the dwelling houses. Their task, as reported by opposition journalists – was to monitor the attitudes of neighbors and if necessary, direct action in the "right direction". They also tried to dissuade from the visiting the polling station supporting opposition voters.

5. Provocation warnings.

Representatives of the opposition bloc "Georgian Dream" admitted in advance the possibility of electoral fraud and questioned their legitimacy, thus warned of the possibility of appeal to a wide protest actions, in case it would be unfavorable to the opposition effect. According to preliminary estimates, the opposition is going to resort to radical action in the case if "Georgian Dream", which will get up to 20% of the votes. The satisfactory result is not less than 40%, which will lead the opposition to struggle parliamentary in the next phase. Thus, the level of political compromise is predicted even before.

6. Aggressive rhetoric.

The leading politicians of all parties demonstrate in their speeches from a negative attitude and intimidating tendencies. The ruling party claims that the opposition tends to return to the past and the restoration of Russian influence. The opposition, in turn, proves that the government has brought the country to a deadlock. Some politicians (Shalva Natelashvili, the Labor Party), also used abusive vocabulary on political basis.

7. Media sharing.

The most effective way to influence the voters is using television. Having the most extensive nationwide distribution channels: the public ("Public Broadcasting" and "Pick"), private ("Rustavi 2", "Imedi") - work, giving a clear priority for the ruling party. They strongly limit the opposition's access to a wide public, and political opponents of the government are presented in a negative light. There is no weighted and impartial information on the national channels, as well as full and open discussions between parties. Opposition TV channels ("Maestro", "TV9", "Caucasia"), in turn, respond with similarly biased approach which avoids evaluation from different perspectives.

8. Print media.

Distribution of printed media is not limited, but the impact on the public is much less effective than TV. However, there are publicly available on newsstands the variety of opposition and radical publications, such as, "Asaval Dasavali", which prints very aggressive and harsh anti-government articles and publishes a stylized image of President Mikhail Saakashvili in the image of Hitler.

9. Sociological Research.

There is a use of sociological studies for the disposition of public opinion. Ordering the polls, the party sometimes gets the opposite results, which are used to motivate further action. It's impossible to establish the accuracy of the research due to involvement and accountability of the sociological services.

Despite the obvious violation of equality for all members of the election campaign in the exchange of information with local residents, there were opinions that these elections will take place in a more tolerant and less provocative setting, in comparison to other election campaigns since the country's independence.

The electronic media

ICES observers note that during the election campaign there weren't provided equal opportunities in the media for the pro-government parties and opposition parties in Georgia.

Georgian media, including television, which is the main source of news and therefore has the greatest impact on the citizens, strictly separated by broadcasting the views and positions of the opposition. Since the pro-government channels "Imedi" and "Rustavi-2" can be shown by a simple antenna, they can be watched by 96% of the families, while the

opposition channels ("Maestro", TV-9) with the help of the satellite antennas can be watched by only 27% of the population.

By Georgian law, the opposition channels during the campaign had to rebroadcast the cable networks, but analysis by "Transparency International" showed that a large proportion of cable networks refused to rebroadcast channels opposition citing "technical problems." About half of local population is watching Cable TV.

It should be noted that at the beginning of summer 2012, TV Channel 9, owned by opposition leader Bidzina Ivanishvili, bought 15,000 sets and satellite plates, and began to distribute them to the public. Such a move was recognized by the government agencies as a violation of the campaign, and all the satellites plates were dismantled by the Prosecutor's decision. They taken away from the people and confiscated, and B. Ivanishvili got a fine of 80 million U.S. dollars.

Pro-government TV channels organized two debates of party leaders from government and opposition during the campaign. However, the main Georgian parliamentary election campaign in the media, especially on television, was held without serious discussion and was boring. There are only two kinds of journalism, the maintain power journalism, or - the opposition journalism. They are only "talking heads" broadcasting on the public (national) TV channels, and the opposition TV is broadcasting the rest. Each of the media channels only shows the positive side of their representatives, they either don't mention their competitors or complain about them.

In addition, it should be noted that the Internet along with the TV are the main sources of news for young people in Tbilisi.

The Central Election Commission of Georgia

The Central Election Commission clearly does not find its rightful place and the fair electoral process according to the rule, and is under strong pressure from the opposing sides. While trying to follow the schedule of the electoral process in strict accordance with the electoral law, yet in almost every issue as the rights of citizens to vote, the registration of political parties and draw, acceptance of international organizations to monitor, etc. – there is an obvious dependence on the current government.

It should be noted the severe approach of the mission of the CEC to the ICES. As a result of improper administrative approach, the ICES mission was not registered as an international election observer in Parliamentary elections 2012.

Moreover, it was much difficult to understand the problems with the voters list, the opening of polling stations at the right places, holding parties, etc. It was impossible to claim that the CEC is able to prevent the direct electoral fraud.

The Central Election Commission of Georgia released figures on the number of voters in the electoral districts of Georgia in August 7, 2012.

According to the CEC, in the 84's electoral districts there are 3,621,000 256 voters registered. But it was impossible to obtain precise figures of the population of Georgia in 2012, and statistics on the number of people who have the right to participate in

Parliamentary Elections in 2012. During the recent decade, more than one million citizens have left Georgia, thus today's population has to be about 4 millions. Thus, the number of people who have the right to vote that are shown to CEC are at least problematic. They are distributed in an unequal way. The majority of the voters - 1,027,493, live in the 10 electoral districts in Tbilisi. As for the regions, most of the voters - 163 654, are registered in the 59th constituency (Kutaisi), followed by the 79th District (Batumi) - 131,756 voters of the 67th District (Zugdidi) - 129,170 voters. The lesser number of all registered voters in the 29th District (Kazbegi) - 5779 and the 43-d (Oni) - 6,855 voters. It is also unclear how much of the population include South Ossetia and Abkhazia in the electoral process as was in the presidential elections in 2008.

According to the CEC, during checking the lists, the place of registration was removed and 77,232 voters on the claims of individuals and homeowners, and 111 763 - on the basis of data provided by the State Commission to clarify numbers of voters in Georgia.

September 3rd, CEC set the rules for living abroad Georgian citizens who intend to vote in Parliamentary elections. "In order to take part in the voting at a polling station in a foreign country the citizens of Georgia have to be on the consular register" - said in a statement of the Georgian Central Election Commission. Georgian citizens who are not registered at the consulate could register before September 10, 2012 at the consulates or at the polling stations. "Chief Consulate maintains a list of registered by these rules voters on September 11 and inform the CEC and the Commission to clarify the voter lists," – noted in the statement.

According to the final post of the CEC, the parliamentary elections in Georgia on October 1 can be potentially attended by 42 613 people, most of them are on the consular register and on the situation on September 10, 1409 voters were registered on special election commission. According to the CEC, the Commission received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia the list of 54,963 voters, which are are registered at the consulates, but this list eliminated those voters who are living in Russia. According to non-governmental organizations, more than 400,000 people (also in those countries where the consular are less than 20 registered voters) who are not living in Georgia, are not able to vote in the elections after June 2012.

In sum, there were opened 40 polling stations in 38 cities in 32 countries. It's not including Russia, where Georgian citizens living there can not participate in the parliamentary elections of October 1 - CEC has explained this decision as "technical problems".

At the same time, the Georgian emigrants who returned to Georgia from the USA, Greece, Spain, Turkey, Italy and other European countries, where they could not pass the electoral register, and intended to demand from the Central Election Commission were not granted the possibility to vote Government of Georgia.

Part of the emigrants returned to Georgia on September 17, and they came through Turkey, and brought with them satellite plates. As stated by those who came home: there has to be another group of immigrants which is supposed to pass the customs on September 18. Each brought a list of those Georgian citizens, who for one reason or another illegally staying

abroad or could not pass the electoral register due to the lack of the required documents and the limited time of registration.

On September 17 evening, immigrants who arrived to Tbilisi, gathered outside the CEC with the posters, which required providing them and their fellow-citizens the right to vote. As representatives of the Central Election Commission did not respond to the requirements of immigrants and didn't accept the collected by them lists of voters who were deprived of voting rights, thus immigrants have decided to transfer lists to any opposition party. On September 18th, they came to the office of the coalition "Georgian Dream" and passed the aforementioned lists. Additionally, immigrants emphasized that they have only part of the list of citizens who could not pass the electoral registration in Georgia's consulates abroad, and the number of these citizens, in their words, is tens of thousands. On September 18th, immigrants held an evening rally in defense of their right to vote in a park in the center of Tbilisi.

According to the CEC, the polls in Russia will not be opened. This decision provoked strong criticism from all public organizations of Georgians living abroad, as well as the political opposition in Georgia. The opposition leader, Berdzina Ivanishvili wanted to create all the conditions for the citizens of Georgia who are in abroad (and they, according to Ivanishvili, 25% of the electorate) were able to participate in the elections. It also requires from them to appoint another voting day, as he was sure that the government deliberately sets the election on Monday: because many Georgian citizens abroad will not be able to go to the polling station, because it's the first day of the working week. The head of the newly formed public movement "Voice of Georgia - for Fair Elections" Teimuraz Shengelia said that at least 350 thousand Georgians living in Russia have the right to vote.

"Apparently, the prospect of joining the election of hundreds of thousands of Georgians who dream about positive change that will give them the opportunity to return back home, scared some people, "- said Teimuraz Shengelia. According to him, Russia is home to not less than 1 million Georgians." From 300 thousand to 0.5 million "- such numbers were mentioned by the ex-foreign minister, now one of opposition members - Salome Zourabichvili. According to her, the refusal of the Russian Georgians the right to vote is a " discriminatory attitude "to them by the authorities of Georgia: Why Georgians living in Russia, are worse than other Georgians?.

According to the Central Election Commission of Georgia, there are going to be open 3,648 polling stations in total. The number of voters - 3,613,747 people. The Parliament of Georgia has 150 seats, of which single-member districts will be drawn 73. The rest will get those parties, which overcame the barrier of 5%. Two blocks and 15 parties will participate in elections. In contrast to the 2008 elections, when the only parties or election blocs could present majoritarian candidate, this time a single-member districts will be able to run and independent candidates submitted by action teams.

However, independent candidates will be placed on deposit 5,000 GEL, which they can return only if they receive at least 10% of the votes. The party, which has no representative in the Parliament of Georgia and is qualified for the elections is obliged to submit to the CEC at least 25,000 signatures of supporters party's participation in the parliamentary elections (0.75% of the total number of voters), and qualified for the elections, which has no representatives in the Parliament of Georgia, is also required to submit to the CEC a list of at least 1,000 supporters of the party's participation in the elections of the Parliament of Georgia.

There were 28 registered political parties, of which eight were included in electoral blocs in the CEC of Georgia as for August 21. Applications for participation in the elections had filed about 40 parties. CEC refused to register 13 parties: "Name of the Lord - the Lord our truth," "Popular Front of Georgia", "Motherland", "Democratic Renewal - our Georgia shines", "Union of Social Justice of Georgia," "Party of Economic Development and Poverty "," Motherland "," Conservative (Monarchist) Party of Georgia. ""Democratic Movement - United Georgia", "Nation's Party", "United Georgia" and "For the renewed Georgia ," "The Social Democrats for the development of Georgia."

These parties were admitted to participate in the election: "Kaha Kukava -" Free Georgia "," New Rights "," Merab Kostava Society "," Jondi Baghaturia - Kartuli Dasi "," Green Party - Gachechiladze, "National Democratic Party," United national Movement, "" The Order of the sons of the fatherland "Samshoblo", "For fair Georgia", "Tetrebi" (White), "traditionalists", "Natelashvili - Labor Party of Georgia", "Union of Georgia athletes", "Freedom - a way of Zviad Gamsakhurdia , "" Salome Zurabishvili - Georgia's Way "," Our Country ", "The Nation's workers Party"," the Council of Georgia workers", " Future Georgia "and" National movement".

In addition, two units were registered. In the "Bidzina Ivanishvili - The Georgian Dream" includes six parties: "Georgia's dream - Democratic Georgia", "Conservative Party", "Industrialists", "Republican Party", "Our Georgia - Free Democrats" and the National Forum. the "Georgy Targamadze - Christian Democratic Union" includes the Christian Democratic Movement and the "European Democrats" of Paata Davitaya. These parties have been partners in the local elections in 2010.

In order to ensure transparency in the electoral process, the CEC invites the registered observer organizations for those to agree upon and submitted the to the CEC candidates for observation "- said in a statement. At last report, the parliamentary elections on October,1 there were 36 international and 42 local NGOs. Enquiry for other registered 25 international and 38 local organizations that are intended to follow the electoral processes in Georgia.

CEC of Georgia urges supervisory organizations, which are registered to participate in the parliamentary elections, to agree on certain observer's candidates. According to the statement of the CEC, and accordingly to electoral law, the registered with the Central Election Commission observation organizations have the right to observe the process of printing of ballot papers and protocols. "Observing organizations, according to an agreement, should be submitted to the CEC no more than three observers at each site seal (7 seats).

At the same time, the CEC of Georgia on the meeting on September 9, denied the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation to register to observe the upcoming parliamentary elections. As well the mission of ICES was denied.

CEC did not specify the reasons for the refusal to register the Russian observers. According to the Electoral Code of Georgia, "an international observer organization can be representatives of another country, a registered business in another country or international organization, whose charter involves monitoring the elections, human rights and the activities of which are based on international principles." Principles of international law mentioned respect for Georgia's sovereignty and international human rights law, to refrain from interference in the electoral process, political impartiality, the financial independence of the members of the electoral process and the transparency of funding sources, as well as protection of the principles of international observers.

According to Russian media, representatives of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation regard the CEC refusal to be politically motivated. According to members of the OP, and the Election Code of Georgia the absence of diplomatic relations, "is not a ground for refusal of registration of international observers." "Moreover, in paragraph 5 of Article 40 of the Code states that the CEC can not deny accreditation of international observers, if the application is filed in accordance with its provisions," - said in a statement. Public Chamber members believe that international organizations that work in the field of election monitoring and human rights have to show solidarity and to draw attention to violations of international rules of the political leadership of Georgia.

According to their opinion, ignoring such violations questions the activity of the whole institute of international observation of electoral processes.

Conclusions

According to the analysis and conclusions of the ICES mission to Georgia, the pre-election processes in Georgia create concerns and rise questions concerning the legitimacy and high politicization of the pre-election political environment in the country. On the basis of information, discussions and publications that were provided to the mission there are profound deficiencies and discrepancies between the declared intentions and future plans of the government, the political block № 5 and between a real and concrete procedures for transparent and democratic elections. The polarization of the Georgian society is broad and creates an atmosphere of possible social disturbances and conflicts as well as develops public mistrust towards the electoral law, fair elections and the continuing of the development of the young democratic system of Georgia.